



A SNAPSHOT OF THE

GEORGIA VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE PROGRAM

Overview

The Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program (GVHCP) began in 2005 with the passage of House Bill 166. This law authorized the state of Georgia via the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to offer Sovereign Immunity (SI) protection to uncompensated, licensed health care professionals while they provide donated care to eligible patients. This protection is extended to trained clinic volunteers.

How does the GVHCP operate?

GVHCP has six Regional Volunteer Coordinators (RVC), located in Gainesville, Savannah, Macon, Atlanta, Augusta and Albany, each responsible for working with existing clinics to credential their health care providers and to start new clinics.

RVC duties include, but are not limited to:

- Credentialing and contracting with licensed health care professionals
- Assisting with recruiting volunteers for the clinics
- Training and supervising the DCH volunteers who complete patient financial eligibility and referral forms
- Conducting quality assurance reviews on the patient forms

How many clinics are currently under the GVHCP?

As of November 2006, there are 27 clinics that are in the process of gaining coverage and six opened clinics under this program. The GVHCP team is working at various stages with 25 other clinics.

What partnerships does the GVHCP have?

The Georgia State Office of Rural Health and the GVHCP currently work together to provide grants to help clinics with their needs.

The GVHCP and The Georgia Free Clinic Network partnership helps identify and share resources. Local county health departments also work with the GVHCP.

How can I sign up for GVHCP?

For more information on the program or how to participate, contact GAVolunteers@dch.ga.gov or call 404-463-8658.

ELIGIBILITY

A licensed health care professional who volunteers in a "free" clinic and/or his/her own private office is protected under this legislation as long as:

- The professional acted within his/her scope of services
- The patient meets the definition of eligible
- A designated/trained DCH volunteer completes the patients' paperwork
- The patient is given written notice that the health care professional has SI from the State of Georgia

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

A patient is eligible if:

- He/she is Medicaid eligible under Georgia law
- He/she is without health or dental coverage
- He/she has an income at or below 200 percent of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
- He/she is a client of DCH or the Department of Human Resources who meets the criteria and his/her income is at or below 200 percent of FPL